

SENATE BILL 1143

By Bunch

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to a pilot program to reward student academic achievement.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-1-2__.

(a) No later than August 1, 2007, the department of education shall establish a pilot program to reward student achievement in the school system having the most students eligible for free and reduced price lunch pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1751-1769. The purpose of the pilot program shall be to encourage student academic achievement through monetary rewards.

(b) The department shall select for the pilot program no more than six (6) schools with the choice made so that students in grades three through twelve (3-12) have the opportunity to participate. The department shall strive to select schools with high populations of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch.

(c) At the end of the school year, the department, from funds appropriated for the pilot program, shall award each student in the top twenty-five percent (25%) of the student's grade in the student's school an academic achievement award of one hundred dollars (\$100). The custodial parent or guardian of such student shall also receive an award of one hundred dollars (\$100) from the department.

(d) At the end of the school year, the department, from funds appropriated for the pilot program, shall award a valedictorian of a participating high school an academic achievement award of five hundred dollars (\$500). The custodial parent or guardian of such student shall also receive an award of five hundred dollars (\$500) from the department.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.